

Approved For Release 2006/05/18 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0002000100010001-6

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Belgium

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DATE DISTR. 23 February 1949

SUBJECT 12 January Meeting of Schaerbeck Section of
Amities Belgo-Sovietiques
25X1A6a

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1. The 12 January meeting of the Schaerbeek Section of the Amities Belgo-Soviétiques was addressed by Maurice Singer, the National Secretary of the ABS. Of the 483 invited to attend, only 15 were present. Among these were Charles Vanbesin, Michel Savoir and his wife, Petit (fnu), Jean-Baptiste Dewil, Delpierre (fnu) and his wife, Georges Lechein, Ivens (fnu) and his wife and daughter.
2. Singer dwelt primarily on the political situation, mentioning the various Soviet diplomatic victories in 1948. He stated that the internal difficulties of the anti-Soviet states, for example the differences of opinion among the British, Americans and French on the German question, would lead eventually to a split. He pointed out that the Marshall Plan had produced only unemployment and misery in Belgium. According to Singer, a strong current of sympathy for Communism existed. Furthermore, he added, the USSR had avoided any danger of encirclement by surrounding herself with democratic countries and, he continued, while the anti-Soviet states were preparing for war, the Soviet Union had undertaken great rehabilitation projects at home. Singer insisted that united propaganda programs be carried out. As an example of the kind of literature members should read, he referred to a new French periodical, Etudes Soviétiques, published in France and designed to counteract the danger of the Readers Digest.

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Approved For Release 2000/05/18 : CIA-RDP82-00457R002400180005-9

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